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FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

**Specialized Needs prom draws enthusiastic crowd**

Posted: Sunday, Nov 09, 2008 - 07:33:44 pm PST

PATRICK O'BRIEN/Press

Nikki Cotter and Trevor Kirsebom dance Saturday night at Moonlight Masquerade, a prom hosted by Specialized Needs Recreation. It was the couple's third prom together.

By PATRICK O'BRIEN  
staff writer

Fourth annual event held at Prairie View Elementary

POST FALLS -- Dressed to the nines, nearly 100 special needs youth and adults took to the dance floor Saturday night for the Moonlight Masquerade.

Specialized Needs Recreation hosted the fourth annual prom at Prairie View Elementary.

"I think that everybody had a great time," said Angie Goucher, executive director, "It was very exciting for me because a lot of volunteers showed up."

A dapper Clyde Martin, clad in a tuxedo attended and said he had a good time.

Goucher said Steve Wasson of Touchdown Tuxedo discounted the formal wear for attendees. Wasson showed up to help celebrate, too.

Around 7:30 p.m., the prom king and queen were announced. Of four couples nominated, Tana Johnson and Chris Reiter were crowned after they received the greatest applause from the crowd.

"All in all, I think everyone had a great time, they always do," Goucher said.

"You can't beat getting all dressed up, going for dinner, and dancing the night away," she said and laughed.

Special Needs Recreation provides five to 10 monthly activities for the developmentally disabled of all ages. The nonprofit organization also runs Camp-Allstars, a day camp for youth aged 4-21. The camp operates throughout the summer and on days when school is scheduled off.

The camp also has a two-hour after school program scheduled once a week.

"We are always looking for volunteers," added Goucher, who said without them the programs would not be possible.

For more information go to [www.snr.bz](http://www.snr.bz).



## FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

### **ISU ends training on live dogs**

Trauma class used canines from shelters  
Associated Press  
November 9, 2008

POCATELLO, Idaho – Idaho State University says it will no longer use live dogs in an Advanced Trauma Life Support class.

The class, offered once a year at the school by the Idaho Committee on Trauma, allowed paramedics, physicians and other medical personnel to practice tracheotomies, the removal of excess blood from internal bleeding and other procedures on the dogs. Four dogs were used for each class, and all were animals from the Pocatello Animal Shelter already scheduled for euthanasia. They were anesthetized during the training and put to sleep immediately afterward, the Idaho State Journal reported.

In a statement issued Friday, the school said the use of dogs for such a course is approved by the American College of Surgeons and that the program was in compliance with all national animal care regulations. But the school said the class, taught by ISU professor Alex Urfer, will use high-tech mannequins that simulate human functions in the future.

ISU decided to end the use of live dogs after the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine brought attention to the course in an article published in the Idaho State Journal.

"While there is yet to be an effective simulation equivalent to the experiential learning that comes from training with living tissue, further institution review and deliberation has concluded that the primary objectives of trauma training can be achieved using alternate methods approved by the ACS," such as the high-tech mannequins, the school wrote in a press release.

Jeff Rosenthal, the executive director of the Idaho Humane Society, was one of several people who had urged changes in the lab.

"When an animal shelter relinquishes pets obtained as strays or from owners to such facilities, they endanger the trust that the community has in the shelter as a place where lost or abandoned animals find refuge and a chance to find a new home with a caring family," Rosenthal wrote in a letter to the editor.

But many people who have taken Urfer's class say there's no substitute for learning on live tissue, even if it's canine.

Chris Bocek, a conservation officer with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, started out as a premed student before switching careers. But he said the things he's learned in Urfer's course have come in handy. He once had to help amputate the leg of a moose in the field.



"It was an invaluable resource to actually work with living organisms and tissues," Bocek said. "You are still gaining valuable knowledge in the general function of organs within a living body. We would monitor respiratory rates and heart rates, and we could actually see the organs working."

### **School districts accommodate additional students**

Central Valley High School students cram into the cafeteria during first lunch on Monday. The school was built to accommodate 1,800 students and has a current enrollment of 1,950. The Spokesman-Review (J. BART RAYNIAK The Spokesman-Review)

November 9, 2008

An initial surge in the number of students at the beginning of the school year sent Valley school districts scrambling to hire teachers to handle the load. In official student counts released in October, the districts seem to have stabilized without having to add staff.

Central Valley has seen growth in special-education students this year. "We've had a number of intensive kids move in," said Jacque Johnson, while existing students have stayed put. "The impact seems most felt at the preschool and elementary level."

The district juggled students and teachers to make the higher numbers work. The district hired 3.5 full-time equivalent teachers at the beginning of the school year, but none for special education. "We did our hiring in the summer," Johnson said. "We're not hiring at this point, but that could change."

Overall, the district's enrollment in October was 11,791 FTE students, compared with projected enrollment of 11,640. Some students, including 42 at Greenacres Middle School, are being overflowed to other schools.

For the first time, a portable classroom has been put in at Central Valley High School to deal with the higher enrollment there. It was taken from Liberty Lake Elementary, where enrollment has declined. West Valley also added teachers at the beginning of the school year to deal with unexpected growth, one position at Centennial Middle School and one at West Valley High School. The district had 3,691 FTE students in October compared with 3,638 in October 2007. The district had set its budget based on an estimated 3,587 students.

East Valley is seeing more students than it planned for, but fewer than at this time last year. There were 3,988 FTE students in October, compared with 4,015 last year. The 2008-09 budget was based on 3,977 students.

East Valley is doing some limited busing to make students balance out. Some fifth-graders from Trentwood Elementary are being bused to Trent Elementary. The ECAP program at Trent was moved to Trentwood, making more room for full-day kindergarten classes at Trent. With the shuffling going on, the district hasn't had to make any new hires.



Enrollment in the Freeman School District is also up over budget. In September and October the district averaged 918 FTE students, 19 over the budgeted number of 899 FTE students.

FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

**Judge dismisses age-discrimination suit against UI**

By Halley Griffin, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Saturday, November 08, 2008

A lawsuit against the University of Idaho and its Board of Regents was dismissed this week in Latah County District Court.

Isabel Bond, 75, filed the lawsuit against the UI in December 2006, alleging age discrimination, breach of contract, wrongful discharge and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Latah County Administrative District Judge Carl B. Kerrick issued a summary judgment Monday, ruling Bond "failed to set forth direct evidence of conduct or statements that may be viewed as directly reflecting an allegedly discriminatory attitude."

Bond claimed she was pressured to retire beginning when she turned 70. She alleged her refusal to retire resulted in negative performance reviews and disciplinary action.

According to court documents, Bond had worked for 30 years with the university's pre-college TRIO programs, which provide assistance to low-income and first-generation college students.

The lawsuit alleged that Jeanne Christiansen, who was then interim dean of the College of Education, began asking when Bond would retire and who would be a suitable replacement.

The lawsuit alleged that "the Interim Dean's inquiry was of such a nature that Plaintiff (Bond) perceived that she was being pressured to retire," according to court records.

Kerrick ruled that Bond's employment with the UI was terminated for legitimate, non-discriminatory reasons, namely that Bond had been unable to manage the TRIO program, which dealt with at-risk youth.

According to court documents, Bond argued it was unreasonable for the university to blame her for every problem and issue that arose from the program during her administration. She alleged the university used the claim of program mismanagement as a ruse for ageism.

Kerrick disagreed.



University officials were unavailable for comment, but spokeswoman Tania Thompson issued a prepared statement.

"I can tell you that the University of Idaho is gratified by the court's decision that upheld our position that the university acted appropriately with respect to Ms. Bond," she stated.

Bond could not be reached at her home for comment Friday.

Halley Griffin can be reached at (208) 882-5561, ext. 239, or by e-mail at [hgriffin@dnnews.com](mailto:hgriffin@dnnews.com).

#### FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

### **ISU halts use of dogs in training**

University had been using animals from local shelter to practice surgery

Associated Press

Monday, November 10, 2008

POCATELLO - Idaho State University says it will no longer use live dogs in an Advanced Trauma Life Support class.

The class, offered once a year at the school by the Idaho Committee on Trauma, allowed paramedics, physicians and other medical personnel to practice tracheotomies, the removal of excess blood from internal bleeding and other procedures on the dogs. Four dogs were used for each class, and all were animals from the Pocatello Animal Shelter already scheduled for euthanasia. They were anesthetized during the training and put to sleep immediately afterward, the Idaho State Journal reported.

In a statement issued Friday, the school said the use of dogs for such a course is approved by the American College of Surgeons and that the program was in compliance with all national animal care regulations. But the school said the class, taught by ISU professor Alex Urfer, will use high-tech mannequins that simulate human functions in the future.

ISU decided to end the use of live dogs after the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine brought attention to the course in an article published in the Idaho State Journal. The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine opposes the use of animals in medical training and research.

"While there is yet to be an effective simulation equivalent to the experiential learning that comes from training with living tissue, further institution review and deliberation has concluded that the primary objectives of trauma training can be achieved using alternate methods approved by the ACS," such as the high-tech mannequins, the school wrote in a news release.



Urfer, the recent recipient of the Idaho Physical Therapy Association's 2008 J. Perry Silver Award for outstanding achievements and contributions in physical therapy, declined to offer specific comments.

"That's a decision the university has made and a decision that has been discussed by university administrators," Urfer said.

Jeff Rosenthal, the executive director of the Idaho Humane Society, was one of several people who had urged changes in the lab.

"When an animal shelter relinquishes pets obtained as strays or from owners to such facilities, they endanger the trust that the community has in the shelter as a place where lost or abandoned animals find refuge and a chance to find a new home with a caring family," Rosenthal wrote in a letter to the editor.

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### **Pen pals give students window on world**

Prairie Middle School students are corresponding with their counterparts in Taiwan

By Kerri Sandaine

Monday, November 10, 2008

Prairie Middle School seventh-graders Appy Enriquez, Dakota Wilson and Brandi Gehring and their classmates have pen pals in Taipei, Taiwan, where Cottonwood graduate Nic Fuzzell teaches. Fuzzell is a former classmate of their teacher, Vikki Riener.

COTTONWOOD - The letters from Taiwanese students describe intense academic schedules and what it's like to live in an apartment in the middle of a densely populated city.

Their new pen pals at Prairie Middle School write about rural living, and activities such as four-wheeling, camping and hunting.

The letter exchanges began this fall in schools a globe twirl apart, to help kids learn about a different culture and practice their writing skills. Kids in Taipei, Taiwan, are getting a glimpse of



Idaho, and seventh-graders from the Cottonwood area are finding out about life in Taiwan's capital city of almost 3.7 million people.

"Their class schedules are way different," said Dakota Wilson, 12. "They live in tiny places, mostly apartments."

"And four means death," added Brandi Gehring, 12. "They don't have any fourth floors over there."

Looking through the letters they've received, the kids point out the neat penmanship and many interesting tidbits. Appy Enriquez, 13, said he's learned the city has one of the tallest buildings in the country, and most people ride bicycles there.

Elaine Chang, 10, of Taipei, wrote that she's been learning English since she was 6 years old. "I don't like playing sports because I'll hurt myself easily, and I think it's dangerous ... I want to be a piano teacher when I grow up because I know how to play one."

An 11-year-old student from Taipei asked the Cottonwood kids about food. "Do you ever eat three-cup chicken or milk tea? I love them."

Other Taiwanese children, who range in age from 10 to 13, wrote about playing computer and video games and swimming. The Cottonwood students say they can relate to those hobbies but not the food.

"We wrote to them about our families and sports," Enriquez said. "Now we are waiting for more letters from them."

The letter exchange was the idea of Nic Fuzzell, who graduated from Prairie High School in 2001, and is now teaching English as a second language in Taipei, said Vikki Riener, a language arts teacher at Prairie Middle School. She and Fuzzell were classmates at PHS.

After college, Riener got a job in their hometown, which has a population of less than 2,000. Fuzzell moved to Taiwan to complete a degree in Chinese and is now working at Academy of Children's English Studies.

In an e-mail to the Tribune, Fuzzell said he enjoys sharing stories about growing up in the "wild" Northwest with his junior high students. American children are granted a lot more free time and independence to explore and play than children are in Taiwan, he said.

"(My students) were elated to read about the hobbies, interests, and daily lives of kids their own age on the other side of the planet. I couldn't hold back laughing as they came up to me in class wanting to know what unfamiliar words like 'four-wheeler,' 'BB gun,' and 'logging' meant. I told them they had to look them up in the dictionary and report back to the class next session. They were all very excited to write back with tons of their own questions."



One of the primary cultural differences Riener's picked up through the letters is how much time the Taiwanese students spend in school. They go to classes all day and then attend private schools in the evening.

The large population in Taipei creates a fierce competition for jobs, Riener said. People need a college education to land the best careers, and children have to perform well at a young age to be accepted at universities.

"As soon as they start school, the competition begins," Riener said. "The kids don't goof off in school. They need to know 3,000 symbols just to read the newspaper. We have 26."

The Prairie Middle School students are learning more about Taiwan in social studies with teacher Jeff Martin.

"This fits in perfect with our world geography studies," Martin said. "We talk about the difference in cultures. I try to get our kids to understand what crowds are. Here, maybe the biggest crowd our kids have seen is at a Washington State University or University of Idaho game, or maybe a Seattle Mariner game."

Most of the kids in Taiwan haven't gone hunting or lived on a farm, he said.

But the population difference and person-per-square-mile is probably the most striking contrast, he said. "There are more people living in their town than in our whole state."

Sandaine may be contacted at [kerris@lmtribune.com](mailto:kerris@lmtribune.com) or (208) 848-2264.

#### FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

#### **Marsing Elementary School to honor veterans Tuesday**

Idaho Press-Tribune Staff

[newsroom@idahopress.com](mailto:newsroom@idahopress.com) Sunday, November 9th, 2008 MARSING — Marsing Elementary is holding its annual Veterans Day program Tuesday in the school cafeteria.

The festivities start at 11 a.m. with a "meet and greet" for veterans in the elementary gym. Immediately after, there will be a slideshow given by Senior Master Sergeant James McMonigal of the National Guard. There will also be a tank and a Humvee for the children to view during recess. The veteran program itself starts at 1:30 p.m. Grades kindergarten through fifth grade will honor veterans with songs and presentations. McMonigal will give a shorter version of his slideshow. The keynote speaker will be Col. G. Jerry Russell, director of the Idaho State Police. Veterans will then be offered a chance to speak before the playing of "Taps" and the singing of "God Bless the U.S.A."



This year, the school asked students to bring pictures of past, present and future veterans. They are displayed on the cafeteria wall.

### **Nampa students make gifts for U.S. soldiers**

Alisa Angelakis

aangelakis@idahopress.com Updated 9 hours 33 minutes ago NAMPA — High school students in the construction and cabinet making program at Skyview High School contribute to the community throughout the academic year. Currently, the students are making ballpoint pens that will be Christmas presents for U.S. soldiers overseas.

This is the second year the high school class has participated in the project. Last year the students contributed 200 pens to the endeavor, which annually brings together wood turners from all over the Treasure Valley.

Instructor Steve Hammond said he tries to get the kids involved in as many civic things as possible.

How the pens are made

Long pieces of wood about an inch in diameter are cut into 2 1/8 inch-long sections.

A hole is drilled through the center of each section.

Brass barrels are glued and inserted into each piece.

Two pieces are needed to make each pen; both are placed on a wood lathe where they are carved down to the proper size.

The twist mechanism, clip and nib are added to complete the pen.

Community gets involved

Monte Eldfrick, owner of WoodCraft Supply in Boise, said many contribute to the pen project every year.

Eldfrick said about 80 WoodCraft stores, including his, host a wood turners event to make as many pens as possible in one day to add to the others that groups send in.

Wood Turners clubs from all over the Treasure Valley and beyond come in to turn, he said.

Many of the volunteers are war veterans.

“We have about 20 lathes running at the same time,” he said. “It’s a really great come-together time.”

Eldfrick said about 34,000 pens had been sent to U.S. troops over the course of five years. The pens are shipped from Boise to WoodCraft’s corporate office in West Virginia, then on to Afghanistan and Iraq.

“We’re certainly going to be sending more this year, so everybody knows they haven’t been forgotten and we appreciate what they’re doing,” Eldfrick said.

“We try to do something like this at least five times a year,” he said.



Monte Eldfrick, owner of WoodCraft Supply in Boise, has participated in the pens for U.S. soldiers program for five years and supplied the pen kits to Skyview High School.

The kits contain the brass parts of the pen: inside barrels, twist mechanism, clip and nib.

The school provides the wood and the students form it into the outside barrel of the pen, using a wood lathe.

When finished, each pen is packaged with a small card that reads “Thank you for your service to our country. May God bless you and God bless America.”

The students sign their names on the cards, adding another personal touch to the gift.

Robert Crawford, a teacher’s assistant for the class, said he was honored to have his pens end up in the hands of U.S. soldiers.

“I, also, intend to enlist in the military following high school,” he said.

Here’s what other participants said about the program:

TiAnna Hagglund, Skyview junior

“I really like this because it’s different than other school classes. It’s more hands-on, and we can come in on our days off, and it benefits others.”

Beto Soto, Nampa High senior

“It’s probably one of my favorite classes. It’s pretty cool the pens go overseas. It’s a great way to do something good.”

Nick Tank, Columbia High junior

“I’ve had a lot of fun making them. I think it’s really cool the pens go overseas.”

Robert Crawford, Skyview High senior

“It’s been my favorite class out of my whole school experience. I spend most of my time here. I’m a big supporter of the military, in general, and it’s an honor that these pens are going to them.”

FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

**No new education news stories posted online today.**



## FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

### **Former astronaut Morgan to speak in Jerome**

By Ben Botkin

Times-News writer

Former NASA astronaut and educator Barbara Morgan will speak at the dedication of a wind turbine at Jerome Middle School on Wednesday.

The event, which is open to the public, takes place at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at the school, 520 10th Ave. West. Jerome Superintendent Jim Cobble said the district is looking forward to having the astronaut visit.

"There's some real celebrity power there," he said. "Someone who's accomplished a lot in her life."

The wind turbine, while it will help provide electricity for the school, isn't intended to simply save the school in costs, Cobble said. Instead, the turbine will be a valuable tool for educating students about the environment and technology, he said, adding that it can help students explore career possibilities.

Morgan was selected as the backup candidate for the NASA Teacher in Space Program in 1985. From September 1985 to January 1986, she trained with the Challenger crew at NASA's center in Houston.

After the Challenger accident, she assumed the Teacher in Space duties. From March 1986 to July 1986, Morgan spoke to education organizations while working with NASA.

In 1986, she returned to McCall-Donnelly Elementary School in McCall to teach, where she had worked in the 1970s. She continued working with NASA, completing her first space flight in 2007.

In August, Morgan left NASA for a position at Boise State University.

### **Transfer troubles**

Gooding public schools worried about future after opening of nearby charter school

By Ben Botkin

Times-News writer

Superintendent Heather Williams is worried about Gooding School District's long-term future.

Enrollment is down. State funding coming in the next school year will be less, leading to potential cuts in programs that serve at-risk youth and challenged students.



The challenges for the district come as North Valley Academy, a charter school, opened its doors this fall. For students, that created another school with kindergarten through eighth-grade classes. For Gooding School District, that meant a loss of 120 students to the charter school, about 10 percent of the district's student body last year.

In Gooding School District, which has an enrollment of about 1,180, the impact of a charter school opening up nearby is more noticeable than in larger districts with more students.

"I am personally not opposed to charter schools, but in a community our size it's difficult," Williams said in an interview.

She wrote a letter to Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter about the issue.

"The significant loss in state revenue will have a direct impact on the quality of programs we will be able to offer students in the coming years," Williams wrote in the Oct. 24 letter.

Williams is still waiting for a response back from the governor's office.

Otter's spokesman, Jon Hanian, confirmed that the governor's office received the letter and said the office will respond to the concerns. He did not have any specifics.

The school district's enrollment next year doesn't look better, either. The charter school will expand in the fall of 2009 and offer high school classes to up to 96 students.

That's about a third of Gooding High School's enrollment, Williams said.

The high school's student population dropping would lead to cuts in electives and programs such as health occupations, business, art and music, Williams said.

"We're going to have to look at not just personnel cuts but program cuts," she said of the long-term future.

This year's state funding was unaffected by the drop in students because it's based on last year's average daily attendance. Next year's state funding for Gooding, which will be based on this year's average daily attendance, is expected to be less. The district will have a sense of the budget impact after this year's first quarter of attendance is calculated later this month.

"The Gooding School District is not the only district facing declining enrollment statewide," said Melissa McGrath, spokeswoman for the Idaho Department of Education, in an e-mail.

"Fortunately, there are laws in place in Idaho that give Idaho school districts a year to work through financial issues caused by declining enrollment, no matter the reason for declining enrollment."

McGrath said Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna has assembled a rural education task force to look at declining enrollment and give recommendations to the Legislature in January 2009.



Williams is seeking some answers that will guide the district's long-term future.

"I don't know what the plan is," she said. "Do they want us to close our doors and open up a charter school?"

Deby Infanger, chairwoman of the charter school's board, said the goal isn't to create troubles for the school district. Instead, it's to provide another opportunity for students, she said.

Infanger stressed that rural students, not just those in larger cities, deserve the opportunity of a charter school. North Valley Academy is a school that's intended for the entire region, not just Gooding, Infanger said. The charter school has 162 students.

"Choice is important," she said. "I'm really trying to stay focused on what's best for kids and not what's best for institutions."

The charter school is also looking into possible bus routes for next year to bring in students from area communities such as Wendell and Hagerman, which will create less of an impact on Gooding School District, Infanger said, adding that the charter school has limits.

"We will never be more than 24 kids per class," she said.

In Twin Falls, the situation was different when Xavier Charter School opened its doors in fall 2007.

Twin Falls School District's enrollment was 7,459 in 2007 when the charter school opened, an increase of 69 students from the year before.

"Certainly, we think that we would have had even more had the charter school not opened," said Wiley Dobbs, Twin Falls School District superintendent. "But I don't know exactly how many."

Ben Botkin may be reached at 208-735-3238 or [bbotkin@magicvalley.com](mailto:bbotkin@magicvalley.com).

## **N. Idaho principals, teachers go back to school**

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho - A school district in northern Idaho has hired a North Carolina-based firm to coach principals and teachers on how to become better educators.

The Coeur d'Alene school district will spend \$96,000 annually on the three-year project.

School district superintendent Hazel Bauman says the Winston-Salem Systemic Services Inc. firm has been hired to create the Coeur d'Alene Academy of Leadership. The board that governs the school district approved the project in August.



Bauman says some of the administrators and teacher who complete the three-year program will be trained to instruct the academy for the district in the future.

The Caldwell School District in southern Idaho kicked off a similar leadership academy program in January.

Information from: Coeur d'Alene Press, <http://www.cdapress.com>

A service of the Associated Press(AP)

## FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

### **ISU halts use of dogs in training**

BY JOHN O'CONNELL  
[joconnell@journalnet.com](mailto:joconnell@journalnet.com)

POCATELLO — Idaho State University announced Friday it has suspended the use of live dogs in a training class for emergency medical personnel. An organization in Washington, D.C., that opposes the use of animals in medical training and research, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, brought attention to the Advanced Trauma Life Support course in a recent Journal article.

The course, offered annually at ISU by the Idaho Committee on Trauma, takes about a weekend to complete and includes a lab that used four dogs each time. All of the dogs used as subjects were supplied by the Pocatello Animal Shelter and were slated for euthanasia anyway. They were anesthetized during the training and put to sleep afterward.

In a press release, ISU stressed that the use of dogs for such a course is approved by the American College of Surgeons, and the program was in compliance with all national animal care regulations. But in the future, the lab, taught by ISU professor Alex Urfer, chair of the Department of Physical and Occupational Therapy, will use high-tech mannequins that simulate human functions.

“The ACS has also approved the use of simulation mannequins for such training,” the press release reads. “While there is yet to be an effective simulation equivalent to the experiential learning that comes from training with living tissue, further institution review and deliberation has concluded that the primary objectives of trauma training can be achieved using alternate methods approved by the ACS.”

Urfer, the recent recipient of the Idaho Physical Therapy Association's 2008 J. Perry Silver Award for outstanding achievements and contributions in physical therapy, declined to offer specific comments.

“That's a decision the university has made and a decision that has been discussed by university administrators,” Urfer said.

In response to the Journal article, several residents and officials wrote letters to the editor urging changes in the lab, including: Jeff Rosenthal, the executive director of the Idaho Humane Society; Justin Goodman, an official with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals; and Dr. John J. Pippin from PCRM.



“In the interest of upholding their duty to practice ethical medicine, doctors at ISU should abandon this cruel dog lab in favor of the effective, economical and humane nonanimal methods available,” wrote Goodman, with PETA in Norfolk, Va.

Rosenthal wrote: “When an animal shelter relinquishes pets obtained as strays or from owners to such facilities, they endanger the trust that the community has in the shelter as a place where lost or abandoned animals find refuge and a chance to find a new home with a caring family.”

Dr. Pippin, whose organization had sought to stop the use of live animals in the lab by filing a complaint with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, argues dogs are too dissimilar from humans to provide an adequate training tool.

“We’re very gratified that the university has decided to do this,” Pippin said. “Of course, we would not agree with their assessment that simulation hasn’t progressed to the point of being equal with live tissue. Nevertheless, we feel they have made the correct decision, and we congratulate them for doing so.”

During his days in medical school, Pippin remembers a required dog lab being “one of the most horrible things I went through.” Even back then, Pippin recalls discussing with other students how dogs were poor subjects for practicing techniques to use on people.

But to many people who have taken Urfer’s class, there’s simply no substitute for live tissue — even if it’s canine.

Chris Bocek is a conservation officer with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game who started out as a premed student. But even in his current profession, the knowledge he learned in Urfer’s course has come in handy. He once had to help amputate the leg of a moose in the field.

“It was an invaluable resource to actually work with living organisms and tissues,” Bocek said. “You are still gaining valuable knowledge in the general function of organs within a living body. We would monitor respiratory rates and heart rates, and we could actually see the organs working.”

Pippin noted that Idaho medical students participate in a program run through the University of Washington, which does not use live animals for teaching.

Pippin considers switching the Advanced Trauma Life Support course to mannequin use to be a “slam dunk.” Though ISU still uses animals in some forms of medical research, Pippin doesn’t consider the ethical concerns to be as black and white.

“That is a very complex issue,” Pippin said.

## **Energizing Idaho’s future**

ISU’s new energy education center lauded by officials

BY YANN RANAIVO  
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POCATELLO — Arthur Vailas appears to have scored another point toward his goal to help build a significant energy sector in Idaho.

He lauded the completion of the Energy Systems Technology and Education Center Friday morning and referred to the facility as another important piece in East Idaho’s energy corridor.

Speaking in the Stephens Performing Arts Center’s rotunda, the Idaho State University president recalled a special moment two years ago.



“Let me point out that two years ago, I said Idaho in particular is an energy corridor in this area of the country,” Vailas said, referring to his first year at ISU. “And this country does not Read about Sen. Mike Crapo’s visit with the Journal’s editorial board.

yet have a sound energy policy.” Vailas repeated his “energy corridor” statement in front of university administrators and lawmakers, which included U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson and U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo.

Later that morning, the group boarded a charter bus and rode to the ESTEC to celebrate its opening day with a ribbon-cutting.

The guests were then given the chance to walk through the newly renovated building, where students and faculty explained the various equipment inside the facility. Simpson and Crapo also took time to tour the facility.

The new ESTEC building will serve as offices, labs and classrooms for the associate degree programs offered there, which include instrument and control technology, electrical engineering technology and mechanical engineering technology.

ESTEC, which was funded with a \$2.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and the National Science Foundation, will also give students and faculty an on-campus laboratory they can use to perform research and test commercial products.

One goal of the center is to help reduce a growing nationwide shortage of technicians who work with energy systems powered by alternative sources.

ESTEC Assistant Director Lawrence Beaty said the center gives a local recruitment and collaboration avenue for the Idaho National Laboratory, government agencies and the private sector.

He said Idaho Power, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Homeland Security are three entities that have shown interest in the center.

“Our foremost product is a trained technician, but we are also able to perform industrial research in this facility,” Beaty said.

There are also classes currently being held in instrumentation and control, and electrical engineering technology. The mechanical engineering technology program will begin classes next fall.

“The classes are moving (into ESTEC) as we speak,” Beaty said.

Crapo, who has long been a supporter of alternative energy, said he began proposing new energy policies back in the 1980s when he was serving in the Idaho Legislature.

“We were not successful at the time,” he said. “But we should continue the efforts and I’m confident that this nation can solve our energy crisis.”

Simpson, who visited an unfinished ESTEC last August, said the center helps train more engineers to work on commercial products.

“This is actually the type of project that Gov. (C.L. “Butch”) Otter was looking at,” he said.

## **Idaho May Drop Company Hired To Raise ISAT Scores**

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The state Department of Education is threatening to drop a Minnesota-based company hired in 2004 to help students who struggle on statewide tests.



The Idaho Standards Achievement Tests determine how schools are performing under the federal No Child Left Behind law.

The state Board of Education signed a \$5 million contract with the Minnesota-based company, PLATO Learning, four years ago for computer-based programs designed to help student improve on the tests.

The state Department of Education took over the programs last year.

Public schools chief Tom Luna says his department has found that less than one third of the programs the PLATO Learning company has implemented in Idaho classrooms are in compliance with state standards for math, reading and language.

Luna has given the company 90 days to bring the programs in line with state requirements.

## **A.F. school board backs plant plan**

Members OK sending letter of support

BY JOHN O'CONNELL  
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AMERICAN FALLS — The superintendent of American Falls School District 381 said Friday he's sending a letter to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality supporting a planned plant that would make fertilizer through coal gasification.

Superintendent Ron Bolinger planned to send the letter during the past weekend at the direction of the school board.

"The board instructed me to write a letter of support for that group, as it supports the community," Bolinger said. "It does help from the standpoint of market value for our school district. The (coal gasification) program itself is going to be worth \$1 billion."

The facility, advanced by Southeast Idaho Energy, would be called the Power County Advanced Energy Center and would gasify between 2,000 to 2,300 tons per day of coal and ing plant. coal/petcoke blends to produce ammonia, urea and urea ammonium nitrate. Byproducts including elemental sulfur, sulfuric acid and slag would also be sold. The proposed site is located about two miles southwest of American Falls near the Lamb Weston potato process-

The letter is part of a public comment period on the project that was originally scheduled to expire on Oct. 24, but has been extended to Nov. 24 at the request of the Sierra Club and Pocatello resident Greg Helm.

The Sierra Club requested the extra time to verify calculations in the permit, according to the DEQ.

Bolinger said the school board has also formulated a plan to cope with the new students that would come to the district because of the plant's construction and subsequent operation.

He believes any additional infrastructure needed would be more than covered by the extra taxes generated by the plant.

An estimated 1,000 workers would come to the area for the plant's construction, but many of them would reside in Pocatello, Bolinger said. When the plant is running, it will be staffed by about 150 full-time workers, Bolinger said.

"We don't see it's going to be a huge impact (in new students) in the long run," he said.



The school district includes a high school, an intermediate school, a middle school and an elementary school. Bolinger expects most new students resulting from plant construction would be in the fourth through seventh grades. He believes the district could address the issue by moving some students around.

“Right now, we are at a point where we could accept more students,” Bolinger said.

## **College of Pharmacy students provide 2,500 flu shots**

BY ANDREW G AUSS

For The Journal

POCATELLO — More than 2,500 Idaho residents have received influenza immunizations this fall from Idaho State University College of Pharmacy students through the College’s Operation Immunization program. Student pharmacists, under the

supervision of a faculty member or licensed pharmacist, have provided the vaccinations at local pharmacies, health clinics, influenza awareness fairs and company health awareness programs in both southeastern Idaho and in the Treasure Valley.

Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter joined in the effort to educate Idahoans on the importance of annual influenza vaccinations and received his flu shot from pharmacy students last week.

“I’m a cowboy so I’m not about to tell you if it hurt,” he joked after third-year student Whitney Bennett gave him a flu shot, but quickly added the vaccination was not only painless, but key to keeping people healthy during flu season.

“It’s so much better to keep people from getting sick in the first place,” he said.

During the months of October and November, students assist in the administration of the vaccine at clinics held at locations such as the Pocatello Senior Citizens’ Center, Portneuf Medical Center, Fred Meyer Pharmacy, Sav-On and more.

More than 100 vaccinations were administered to members of the University community during an October 24 campuswide immunization clinic held at the Earl R. Pond Student Union. An additional 56 flu shots were given that evening to community members, free-of-charge, during a College of Pharmacy open house. The annual event is held in conjunction with the American Pharmacists Association’s American Pharmacist Month activities. The complimentary vaccinations and other month-long events are provided through a donation from Sav-On Pharmacy.

According to Suzanne Tegland, Operation Immunization student coordinator, the number of immunizations administered so far this season has increased by more than 100 from those given in 2007. Students plan to administer more immunizations this week in the Burley area.

“Each year, our students reach out to more members of the Southeastern Idaho community to educate, and vaccinate against the influenza virus,” said Pharmacy Dean Joseph Steiner. “The Operation Immunization program is a great example of how the College is helping to meet the health care needs of Idaho citizens, while providing an excellent health science education.”

Influenza is a contagious virus that causes respiratory symptoms like sore throat, coughing, and sneezing and runny nose. It may also be accompanied by a high fever, headache and muscle aches. Nausea and vomiting occur more commonly in children than adults. At particular risk are healthy adults who can catch the disease and start spreading it, even one day prior to symptoms



developing, and for up to five days after. This means that you could be spreading the flu without feeling sick.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, people at high risk for flu complications are highly encouraged to be vaccinated — these include children from 6 months old up to their fifth birthday, pregnant women, anyone over 55 and people of any age who have chronic health conditions such as diabetes, congestive heart failure or asthma. In addition, people who live with or care for those who are at high risk should get the vaccination. This includes health care workers and family and daycare personnel who are around children less than 6 months old (too young to be immunized). However, even those who don't fall under any of these categories should consider getting the flu shot to prevent spreading or catching the disease, either at home or at work.

#### FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

##### **Science shuttle**

Robert Bower / rbower@postregister.com - Student astronauts from Edgemont Elementary School watch fifth-grader Legend Emmons demonstrate gas pressure with a balloon of baking soda attached to a bottle of vinegar Friday after shuttling over to the "aliens" of Ethyl Boyes Elementary School. District 91's "shuttle" bus, outfitted with science laboratory stations, transports older students to teach younger "alien" students across the district.

Student astronauts from Edgemont Elementary School watch fifth-grader Legend Emmons demonstrate gas pressure with a balloon of baking soda attached to a bottle of vinegar Friday after shuttling over to the "aliens" of Ethyl Boyes Elementary School.

District 91's "shuttle" bus, outfitted with science laboratory stations, transports older students to teach younger "alien" students across the district.

Ivan Sanchez of Ethyl Boyes Elementary School tries to assemble Lego pieces while wearing heavy gloves. His experiment was one of several to explore concepts associated with space travel.

##### **ISU halts use of dogs in life support training**

The school said the use of the dogs was approved by the American College of Surgeons.

POCATELLO (AP) -- Idaho State University said it will no longer use live dogs in an Advanced Trauma Life Support class.

The class, offered once a year at the school by the Idaho Committee on Trauma, allowed paramedics, physicians and other medical personnel to practice tracheotomies, the removal of



excess blood from internal bleeding and other procedures on the dogs. Four dogs were used for each class, and all were animals from the Pocatello Animal Shelter already scheduled for euthanasia. They were anesthetized during the training and put to sleep immediately afterward, the Idaho State Journal reported.

In a statement issued Friday, the school said the use of dogs for such a course is approved by the American College of Surgeons and that the program was in compliance with all national animal care regulations. But the school said the class, taught by ISU professor Alex Urfer, will use high-tech mannequins that simulate human functions in the future.

ISU decided to end the use of live dogs after the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine brought attention to the course in an article published in the Idaho State Journal. The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine opposes the use of animals in medical training and research.

"While there is yet to be an effective simulation equivalent to the experiential learning that comes from training with living tissue, further institution review and deliberation has concluded that the primary objectives of trauma training can be achieved using alternate methods approved by the ACS," such as the high-tech mannequins, the school wrote in a news release.

Urfer, the recent recipient of the Idaho Physical Therapy Association's 2008 J. Perry Silver Award for outstanding achievements and contributions in physical therapy, declined to offer specific comments.

"That's a decision the university has made and a decision that has been discussed by university administrators," Urfer said.

## **N. Idaho educators sent back to school**

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) -- A school district in northern Idaho has hired a North Carolina-based firm to coach principals and teachers on how to become better educators.

The Coeur d'Alene school district will spend \$96,000 annually on the three-year project.

School district superintendent Hazel Bauman said the Winston-Salem Systemic Services Inc. firm has been hired to create the Coeur d'Alene Academy of Leadership. The board that governs the school district approved the project in August.

## **Judge dismisses UI ageism case**

MOSCOW (AP) -- A judge in northern Idaho has dismissed an age discrimination lawsuit a former University of Idaho employee filed against the school two years ago.



Isabel Bond, 75, sued the university in 2006 claiming she was pressured to retire from her job on the Moscow campus and given negative performance evaluations when she refused.

Latah County District Judge Carl Kerrick ruled last week that Bond failed to show sufficient evidence of discriminatory conduct against her. He also ruled that Bond was fired for legitimate reasons.